

## **Council on Community Accessibility Minutes for February 21, 2005**

**Attendance:** Byron Smith, Suzie Rimstidt, Ruth Rives, Cori Mitchell, Susan Rinne, Vicki Pappas, Bob Althaus, Amy Shrake, Chuck Osborn, David D. Austin, David Carter, Elizabeth Hall. **Staff:** Craig Brenner, Liaison, City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department.

**Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves and sang happy birthday to Byron Smith.

**Media:** An article in the Herald Times which included a picture of Ruth Rives making neck coolers for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan was shared; Ruth made one correction that her son is in the military but in the States rather than either of these countries. Articles about the Chocolate Fest and the new accompanying Art and Chocolate fundraisers for OBL, Susan Rinne, Ex. Director, were circulated. Katie also read the HT article of NOD, the National Council on Disability, commending CCA and Bloomington as an accessible community.

**Calendars:** Vick Pappas explained the ADA art contest that resulted in calendars that she distributed to those who had not received them.

**Concerns/ADA Complaints:** Yogi's has completed their renovations. Chuck Osborn, complainant, has signed and returned the settlement. Fiddler's Green is now Players Pub. A complaint had been filed regarding the inaccessible entrance of Fiddler's Green, and then the business closed. The new owner will be contacted regarding the needed change, and if he's not cooperative, the name on the complaint will be changed.

Chuck will contact the Bloomington Mayor regarding the need for a business license or some strategy to require an ADA inspection before a business is opened after changing its purpose or doing renovations. Katie has unsuccessfully tried to contact Mayor Krizan regarding this need which was one of the goals discussed with him by CCA shortly after he took office. Player's Pub is an example of this need.

Ruth Rives has complained about the inadequate signage at Eastland Plaza. The owner of Eastland Plaza has declined to participate in mediation, so a copy of the letter she received should be given to Barbara McKinney.

Craig will report the inaccessible restaurant La Bamba to Barbara McKinney as soon as he has more details. A consumer who uses a wheelchair was unable to get in the locked door at the top of the ramp. No doorbell is available.

Leadership Bloomington—Monroe County wants to connect with CCA's ADA survey in regard to Winslow Park.

**Leadership of CCA:** Katie suggested that CCA needs to encourage new

leadership or perhaps project leaders. She feels it's an honor to serve but that new leadership might bring new ideas and energy. The possibility of creating an executive committee or some type of time-limited structure was discussed. Byron and Katie will recommend a structure in March.

**Business Expo:** A booth will be used again and feature “**Accessibility of the Small Business.**” Byron suggested we have a subcommittee to decide what should be included at the booth. Vicki Pappas will see if all of the seminars are taken, and Suzi Rinne, Vicki, and Craig or Lee will meet to determine what kind of seminar might be suggested for this year or next as well as what theme and content should be used at the booth. If a seminar isn't available this year, one will be planned for next year and requested in a timely manner.

**Accessibility Awareness Month:** After evaluating the small group that attended the film fest in the last two years, two conclusions were drawn. A plan committee for the film festival for 2006 Accessibility Month will meet in June or July to address films, place, etc, possibly at the Cinemat and the Ryder Series. This year, a children's festival at the library will be researched, and a film at the Cinemat, if it doesn't take extraordinary planning. Craig will call Steve Volan at the Cinemat.

Elizabeth Hall announced the March 8th Stone Belt Employer Awards at the Convention Center. The Mayor will do a proclamation and plans to stay for the program.

Vickie suggested that other organizations might partner in planning a whole series of events for Accessibility Month. In 2004, CCA did a flier that included lots of different events sponsored by different organizations.

**Emergency Management:** Bob Althaus, a volunteer with the Red Cross, invited the CCA to respond in some way to help develop a database/registration of persons with disabilities and sensitivities. They have decided to add at least one neighbor or other person who might have knowledge of the person with a disability to the information gathered for this database. Liability and insurance issues have delayed the project, but they are trying to move forward. A meeting on March 2, at 7:30 pm will be working on these issues. People with disabilities need to be represented.

David Austin announced that the Linton American Legion had contacted him asking for accessibility guidelines as they prepare to erect a new building.

*Respectfully submitted:*  
Suzie Rimstid